Instructors: Steve Smith, azalfal@ag.arizona.edu, N359 ENR2, 621.5325 (voice only), 282.8960 (text only). Dr. Smith does not have regularly scheduled office hours. Contact him directly for an appointment at least 24 hours in advance of when you would like to meet. When you do so, provide days and times when you are available. Teaching Assistant: Nolan Bade, nolanbade@email.arizona.edu

Course description:

This course deals with plant form and function from an evolutionary point of view and is intended for majors in all fields of biology. Emphasis is placed on understanding basic processes of metabolism, evolution, reproduction, growth, development, and physiology of nonvascular and vascular plants. These processes are considered within the context of the environments plants inhabit and human activities that affect or depend upon plants.

Students completing PL S 240 should:

1. Understand the basic structures and processes involved in plant growth and development;
2. Appreciate the diversity found among plants and understand the basis for and significance of this diversity;
3. Understand how plants interact with their environment and the critical roles that plants play in all ecosystems;
4. Use scientific terminology to communicate effectively about plants;
5. Develop critical thinking skills by evaluating information from multiple perspectives, drawing reasonable conclusions, and defending them rationally; and
6. Have assumed complete responsibility for their performance in the course and actively worked to improve their organizational and time management skills.

Major Topics:

I. Cells: Structure and energy
II. Form and function
III. Genetics and evolution
IV. Regulation of growth and development
V. Evolution of diversity
VI. Ecology and the human prospect


Student Evaluation:*  

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Activity</th>
<th>Points</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Midterm examinations (50 minutes)</td>
<td>3 @ 100=200 points**</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Final examination (2 hours)</td>
<td>1 @ 200=200</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laboratory exercises</td>
<td>12 @ 15=180</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In-lecture activities***</td>
<td>10 @ 5=50</td>
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<td></td>
<td>630</td>
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* Changes may be made to this list of graded activities during the semester.
** Best two scores of the three midterm exams count. No make-up exams are given so a missed exam (score=0) will represent the omitted score. 

*** Primarily short (< 5 min.) quizzes, essays, or diagrams. These will usually not be announced in advance.

Assignment of final grades is not based on any preconceived thresholds for letter grades, but roughly follows: >90% = A; 80-89% = B; 70-79% = C; 60-69% = D; <60% = E. 

If you have a question about any grade you must consult with Dr. Smith within seven days of the due date or exam. No grade changes are possible after this.

**Course web site and electronic materials:**

The web page for this course is located within the University’s D2L course management system. To access this page:

1. With a connection to the Internet established, open up an Internet browser (i.e., Firefox, Safari, Opera, Internet Explorer) 
2. Go to http://d2l.arizona.edu 
3. Click on the NetID button in the upper left corner of the screen 
4. Log in using the same information you use for UA Webmail

Once you successfully access the D2L MyHome page by logging in with your NetID, look for the box labeled My Academic Courses in the middle of the screen.

1. Click on the plus sign (+) beside the current semester. 
2. Click on the plus sign (+) beside the department name, and then 
3. Click on your course name. 
4. You should now be at your D2L Course Home page

Once logged on you’ll be able to locate the link to our page in the section entitled “My Courses” on the right side of the window. You must be registered in the course to access the D2L page. This page will provide you with access to news and lots course content (e.g., lecture and lab materials and supplementary reading) and its contents will periodically change. Note that some of the files accessible from the page will only be available for downloading only until 7 days after the information they contain is covered in lecture or laboratory. After this time, it will not be possible to access the files. Download early!

Where can you get more help if I need it?

Go to http://help.d2l.arizona.edu and click on the 'Students' button to access online help materials.

If you need to access a protected document from the site the username is green and the password is plant (both all lowercase).

**Staying in contact:**

Ask Dr. Smith for clarification whenever you need it (with one exception, noted below)—in class, lab, during office hours, or by e-mail. Students are sometimes reluctant to ask for help because they think it’s an imposition on the instructor. This is nonsense. The main reason why instructors are here is to answer your questions! The other reason students are reluctant to ask for help, especially in class, is that they sometimes think they’re “the only one who doesn’t get it.” This is rarely true,
so ask away. The exception mentioned above is this: Instructors will not be available to answer your questions in the 24 hours before an exam. You have to plan ahead to get help.

Course rules:

Absences and classroom conduct
You are expected to attend all lecture and laboratory sessions. If an absence is anticipated, you must inform the instructor of the time and reason for the absence at least 72 hours in advance. Special arrangements to present information missed while absent may be made by the instructor only under these circumstances. All holidays or special events observed by organized religions will be honored for those students having affiliation with that particular religion. Absences pre-approved by the University’s Dean of Students (or Dean’s designee) will be honored so long as official notice of absence is provided at least seven days in advance. Any in-class graded activity (e.g., examination) scheduled for a day you will be absent (for whatever reason) must be rescheduled for an earlier day. Under any circumstances, should an emergency arise that makes it impossible to contact the instructor prior to class, you must do so as soon as possible and explain the situation and why earlier notification was not possible. Supplementary presentation of lecture or laboratory materials will not be made, regardless of the circumstances of the absence.

All electronic devices must be turned off during lecture. If you wish to use a tablet or laptop (but not a phone) during lecture, you may do so only to take notes or follow course PowerPoint slides and only if you are seated in the rear row of our lecture room. This rule will be enforced throughout the semester with or without acknowledgement during class. (Note: Disabled students have priority at all spaces in this row.)

While in class you are expected to conduct yourself in a manner conducive to learning and in a way that does not interfere with other students’ concentration. Failure to do so could lead to sanctions that could affect at least your grade in the course. All students must abide by the University’s policy on threatening behavior. “Threatening behavior,” means any statement, communication, conduct or gesture, including those in written form, directed toward any member of the University community that causes a reasonable apprehension of physical harm to a person or property. A student can be guilty of threatening behavior even if the person who is the object of the threat does not observe or receive it, so long as a reasonable person would interpret the maker’s statement, communication, conduct or gesture as a serious expression of intent to physically harm.

Important dates
Each student is responsible for knowing and understanding all important dates relative to their academic status in this course. Most important among these are the last day to drop courses resulting in deletion of course enrollment from your record, and the last day to drop a class with a grade of “W” (if passing)(see below).

Interruption of educational activities at the University due to widespread illness or other emergencies
It is possible that a communicable disease (e.g., influenza) or another emergency may result in partial or complete suspension of classes and other regularly scheduled activities at the University. If this occurs, we presume that the University, and not the instructors of this course, will provide primary information regarding general courses of action including how scheduled activities (e.g., labs, lectures, exams, etc.) are to be completed. Note that such a suspension of regularly scheduled activities may not necessarily result in the cancellation of these activities. For example, it may be possible to hold examinations or other course activities using on-line resources during an emergency. It is each student’s responsibility to remain informed of all changes in class schedules or activities that may result from an emergency. The main web page for the University (http://www.arizona.edu/) will serve as the primary portal for all information in such circumstances. Instructors of this course may provide secondary information regarding specific activities associated with this course. These will be explained in e-mail messages sent via the D2L course management system. To receive messages it is essential that you have configured your default e-mail management system to receive messages sent to your University of Arizona (…@email.arizona.edu) e-mail address.
Communication
You are encouraged to contact any of the instructors in this course should you have questions or need assistance. Certain rules will apply however. Failure to follow these rules will likely result in you communication being ignored:

1. In written communication (including e-mail), normal English grammar, punctuation and sentence structure are required. Abbreviation, as might be used in a text message, will not be read.
2. The writer of all messages must be clearly identified by first and last name. Instructors will not respond to anonymous messages or those where e-mail addresses are the only personal identifiers available.

Late work
Late work will be accepted only in rare circumstances. As soon as you realize that you will be unable to turn in work on time, contact Dr. Smith immediately (e-mail is OK) and explain your situation. He will determine whether late work will be accepted and will inform you of the revised due date and any penalties that will be applied to your grade for the work.

Changes in graded activities
During the semester, instructors may modify the list of graded activities (e.g., exams, projects, assignments, etc.) that will be used to assign final grades in the course. If this occurs, all students will be informed of the changes via their D2L e-mail address early enough to allow sufficient preparation. Likewise, there may be occasional opportunities for extra-credit work. These opportunities will be defined by the course instructors, and the results of this work will be incorporated into calculation of final grades. Personal requests for supplementary extra-credit opportunities will not be granted under any circumstances.

Universal Learning
Dr. Smith is committed to the principle of universal learning. This means that our classroom, our virtual spaces, our practices, and our interactions will be as inclusive as possible. Mutual respect, civility, and the ability to listen and observe others carefully are crucial to universal learning. It is the University’s goal that learning experiences be as accessible as possible. If you anticipate or experience physical or academic barriers based on disability or pregnancy, please let Dr. Smith know immediately so that you may discuss options. You are also welcome to contact Disability Resources (DRC, 520-621-3268) to establish reasonable accommodations. You must register and request that the DRC send Dr. Smith official notification via email of your accommodations needs as soon as possible.

Academic integrity and discourse
You are encouraged to share intellectual views and discuss freely the principles and applications of the course materials. However, graded classroom, laboratory and homework exercises must be executed independently, except as specifically noted by the instructor. This course operates under the Code of Academic Integrity.

It is unacceptable in this course to submit work without complete citation describing its source(s). For example, it is considered a violation of the Code of Academic Integrity to use work that was previously generated in another course (by you or someone else) to meet an assignment in this course without specific acknowledgment of this fact as part of the assignment.

As a student it is your responsibility to be completely familiar with and adhere to the rules for academic behavior discussed in the Code of Academic Integrity. If you have any questions whatsoever, ask one of your instructors before you act. The consequences of not doing so may be extreme. The University Libraries have some excellent tips for avoiding plagiarism.

Note that instructors in this course may at times express opinions. These are entirely their own and may not represent accepted opinions of the University its Colleges, Departments or Schools, or any other group or organization.

Frequently Asked Questions
Answers to many frequently asked questions are provided in a course FAQ page. You can access this page via D2L → Content → Course Organization → Frequently asked questions. You should thoroughly review this page. Additional course rules are presented there.
Incomplete policy
Any incomplete grade given must be verified with a written agreement with the student that specifies the work to be done and a timetable for completion. Incomplete grades are assigned only in extreme circumstances when it is impossible for the student to complete a minor portion of the work required for a course. These grades are not to be used as a mechanism to retake a course because of generally poor performance. For more information see: http://www.registrar.arizona.edu/gradepolicy/incomplete.htm.

Course withdrawal
Students withdrawing from this course (grade: W) must notify the instructor prior to nonattendance in classes and execute a drop or withdrawal in accordance with the UA General Catalog. Any student failing to attend class in two or more successive classes is subject to automatic withdrawal if arrangements have not been made between student and instructor in advance of the absence.

Personal privacy
It may be impossible to completely maintain the anonymity of individual students taking this course relative to grades given on assignments, exams, or final grades at the completion of the course. Students may be asked to provide an alias that can be used in place of their name in an attempt to maintain anonymity. It is the student's responsibility to insure that this alias remains confidential, as the possibility exists that this and the grade(s) associated with it will be available on bulletin boards in areas open to the general public.

Changes to the syllabus and schedule
The information contained in the course syllabus and schedule, other than the grade and absence policies, may be subject to change with reasonable advance notice, as deemed appropriate by the instructor. Changes will be posted on the D2L course site or announced in lecture or laboratory.

Some suggestions on how to be a better student:

1. Plan how you want to use your time. Use daily, weekly, and semester calendars to keep track of appointments and assignments. Write down important dates and times. Brains are for important tasks -- like thinking.
2. Review lecture and notes within 24 hours.
3. Keep your class materials in a 3-ring binder. Do it as you go.
4. Form a study group.
5. Establish a regular study routine. Study at the same time for the same duration at the same place.
6. Prepare for exams from the first day of class. Everything you do is exam preparation. Watch and listen for potential exam questions. Use the week before the exam to review NOT to learn.
7. Seek help when you need it (everyone does from time to time).

The University Think Tank has lots of resources available to help you learn. Take a look.

May your trails be crooked, winding, lonesome, dangerous, leading to the most amazing view. May your mountains rise into and above the clouds. May your rivers flow without end, meandering through pastoral valleys tinkling with bells, past temples and castles and poets towers into a dark primeval forest where tigers belch and monkeys howl, through miasmal and mysterious swamps and down into a desert of red rock, blue mesas, domes and pinnacles and grottos of endless stone, and down again into a deep vast ancient unknown chasm where bars of sunlight blaze on profiled cliffs, where deer walk across the white sand beaches, where storms come and go as lightning clangs upon the high crags, where something strange and more beautiful and more full of wonder than your deepest dreams waits for you—beyond that next turning of the canyon walls

Edward Abbey